Groundwater contaminated by arsenic in 20 districts of U.P

3973. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

whether a recently conducted survey aided by UNICEF in Uttar Pradesh revealed that in more than 20 districts covering 322 development blocks, the groundwater was found to be contaminated by arsenic;

if so, to what extent on an average, the arsenic contamination was found to be excessive beyond the permissible limit of 0.05 mg per litre; and

whether the Centre would expedite similar surveys on all areas in the country, prone to arsenic/lead contamination of groundwater?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) In the survey, arsenic contamination in groundwater in 62 development blocks of 20 districts has been detected.

Drinking water of 2610 handpumps in 62 development blocks of 20 districts has been found to contain arsenic beyond permissible limit.

Continuous Monitoring and surveillance of drinking water quality under National Rural Drinking Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance Programme has been introduced from 2006 to detect chemical contamination including arsenic contamination. The programme aims at testing of water samples of all drinking water sources in the rural areas.

Allocation for SGRY

† 3974. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

the amount allocated by Government for the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) during the last three years;

the State-wise details of amount spent under this scheme during the said period;

whether it is a fact that the amount allocated for this scheme was not received during this period; and

if so, the amount to be allocated by Government for this scheme during the years 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The amount allocated to the States/Union Territories under the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) during the last three years is as under:

Year	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Amount Allocated (Rupees in lakhs)	539650.00	291154.31	165447.91

(b) Details are enclosed as Statement *(See* below).

(c) Amount allocated under SGRY in a financial year was received in the Demands for Grants of this Ministry during that year.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.